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WOMEN IN THE WORKSHOPS

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.] ***Societies and Branches in the Union 524.*** [NON-PARTY.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Notes and News	285
The Extension of Women's Work Since the War. II.—Women in the Workshops	286
Correspondence	288
What they Said in the Restaurant	289
Everyday Luxuries	290
The Lure of the Mare's Nest	291
The Suffrage Position Abroad	292
N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital	293

Notes and News.

The House of Commons.

The re-assembling of Parliament at this moment when our national resources and national energy are still largely disorganised, ought to be of hopeful augury. The unprofitable debate on conscription with which the session opened, does not, we trust, represent the sum-total of achievement. The Government have a united people behind them, a great opportunity before them; is it too much to hope that they may rise above party squabbles and newspaper controversy—that national liberties and national necessities will be largely and wisely treated?

The Bristol Congress.

The Trades Union Congress held in Bristol last week was the first conference of organised labour since August of last year, and the emphasis with which the delegates declared their horror of all systems of militarism and of conscription is one of the great hopes of a future and a lasting peace. They realise fully what Mr. Seddon said in his presidential address, that "our share in this struggle will be equal to defeat unless we make the horrors of this war the overthrow of aggressive militarism," and it was by a majority of 600 to 7 that they pledged themselves "to assist the Government as far as possible in the successful prosecution of the war." Our Allies need not be afraid that we are not one people.

Trades Union Difficulties.

Following upon these decisions of the Congress, Mr. Lloyd George's speech made a deep impression. He brought his indictments against Trade Unions, and gave his instances clearly. Output was limited here, workmen were obstructive there, the regulations were not suspended, as was promised, they were not doing their best, and they must do it. As far as the Government was concerned, he maintained that their part of the contract was being carried out, war profits are taken by the Government, and the Unions can rely upon his promises. It is clear, however, that eloquence is not enough. The Trade Unions difficulties are real difficulties, and with all their determination to help their country, the Unions cannot be sure that the indiscriminate relaxation of all their rules will really do this. The correct balance must be struck between what is necessary for war and what is not necessary. The organisations which have struggled so long and so passionately to raise the standards of living and to improve the conditions of labour are slow to see the necessity, and afraid, with great reason, of those profit-mongers who exploit patriotism in order to lower wages. With good will, however, and with plain speaking, with frankness, knowledge, and organisation, all the difficulties can be met and the attitude of the Congress gives good hope for the future.

Curiosities of War-Time Economy.

It seems only fair, when women workers are asked to save and spare in the name of the nation, that they should ask how our statesmen are spending the nation's savings. Retrenchment in departments of State is not very apparent. From the current list of political pensions we note the cases of Lord George Hamilton, who draws £2,000 per annum, and Lord Balfour of Burleigh £1,200, both of whom have by this time received these large sums over a long term of years. Mr. Henry Chaplin receives £900; Lord Haldane, till lately Lord Chancellor with £10,000 a year, has just retired on a pension of £5,000. He is one of three ex-Lord Chancellors, all receiving the same sum. But most remarkable of all is the case of Mr. J. A. Pease, ex-President of the Board of Education. Mr. Pease's career at the Board of Education, which terminated in May (when he made way for Mr. Arthur Henderson), lasted nearly three years and a half. For his political services he is in receipt of a pension of £1,200 per annum, and as he is fifty-five years of age, he may reasonably hope to enjoy the allowance accorded him in war-time for many years to come. It is impossible not to think in this connection, of the "crusts of bread" and "lumps of sugar," the little painful savings of women, made that they may put their mite into the treasury. To pay for—"political pensions"? When the first Balkan war broke out, the salary of *every* official under the Bulgarian Government, from the Prime Minister to the gate-porter, was at once *reduced* to one-third for the time of war. But then, you say, Bulgaria was fighting for her life, and for the liberation of the small oppressed nationalities at her gates. What else is Britain doing?

The Latest Belgian Grey Book.

"With regard to the origins of the war, few more clear-sighted despatches were penned in the critical ten days than that sent off by Baron Beyens (the Belgian Minister at Berlin) as early as July 26th," says a writer in *The New Statesman*, commenting on the Belgian Grey Book, just issued. "He sent them by special messenger, lest the German secret service should read them, and told his Government frankly that in his judgment there would be a European war, and that the German military party were its authors. That party's desire for war, its confidence of winning, its success in convincing the Emperor, the evidence that to attain its ends a plan had been concerted between the diplomatists of Berlin and Vienna, and the extraordinary way in which the Serbian controversy lent itself to such a purpose, are all very carefully set out and brought together," corroborated beside by some independent evidence in the telegrams also sent by the Belgian Minister at Vienna.

The evidence of the Grey Book would show that Berlin rather than Vienna precipitated the war.

Of later despatches, there is one of extraordinary interest from the Belgian Minister at Constantinople to his Govern-

ment, dated October 31st, 1914, after the entry of Turkey into the war. In the Minister's opinion it would have been better if England and Russia had declared war upon Turkey in the previous August, when the *Goeben* took shelter in the Dardanelles. For since then the Germans had gradually refortified the entrance to the Straits with new batteries and "a complete system of torpedoes." Altogether, millions of money have poured from Berlin into Turkey, "and her army is now far more strongly organised than at the outbreak of the war." Which conclusively shows that the heavy fortification of the Dardanelles dates from long before our first naval attack last February.

The British Association.

The meeting concluded on September 11th has been one of the greatest national significance in the history of the Association "for the advancement of science," for the greater number of the papers read, though they covered a wide range of topics, referred directly or indirectly to the national needs, or preparation for the future. The Economic Science Section accordingly secured some of the largest audiences, when such subjects were discussed as "The Fatigue-Point in Workshops," and the gradual falling off of the output under the strain of continuous work; in the long debate on "Means of Promoting Industrial Harmony," most of the difficulties and dangers of friction between employers and employed were set forth by such representative speakers as Sir Hugh Bell, Mr. W. Thorne, M.P., and Mr. Albert Evans. No conclusion was, however, reached, and no resolution submitted at the close. The opinion on both sides appeared to be that there was great need for give and take, but no means of deciding when or where the compromises should be made. It is interesting to note that the Educational Science Section was presided over by Mrs. Henry Sidgwick, the first woman who has filled the position, though Miss Ethel Sargant, who presided last year over the Botanical Section, was the first woman president ever appointed.

Some of the proceedings of special interest to women receive further notice in THE COMMON CAUSE (see below, and p. 289).

The Extension of Women's Work Since the War.

II.—WOMEN IN THE WORKSHOPS.

Under the heading, "Possible Limitations," the Report on the replacement of men by women in industry, drawn up for the British Association, deals with some of the chief obstacles to women's employment in the past, and points out that as "the customary barriers having broken down," a great deal now depends on the fitness and willingness of women to undertake industrial work.

"Whether woman comes into industry on greater terms of equality with man as far as training and continuity of employment are concerned depends largely on her own inclination in the matter, though changed economic and social circumstances may force a still larger proportion of women into the labour market. How far she is able to compete, then, with men will be determined by her own will and the natural disabilities which press all too unfairly upon her in competing with men in industrial life. . . ."

THE ATTITUDE OF TRADE UNIONISTS.

This summary of the situation scarcely seems to give due weight to the attitude of trade unionists, who, backed by the influence of the State, have it in their power to hamper the competition of women to a very great extent. "In many cases the shifting of the line of demarcation between men's and women's jobs has received strong trade union opposition, and, in most cases, agreements have been made for the duration of the war only, and without prejudice to the consideration of the question after the war." (Page 9 of the report.) No doubt a great deal does depend on the women themselves, and the use they make of the present opportunity; but it is certainly too soon to assume that they have won a fair field and no favour.

OBSTACLES IN THE WAY OF WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT.

The following are given in the Report as some of the chief obstacles that have hitherto stood in the way of women's employment in the higher grades of industry:—

1. Women's lack of physical strength and staying power as compared with men. The lack of physical strength effectually bars her from entering upon work entailing any considerable physical strain. In some cases during the war the work which women have undertaken has proved injurious to them, *e.g.*, the carrying of heavy weights in warehouses. In the printing trade it has been suggested that women should do "laying on." As this often envolves the handling of heavy rolls of paper, the process is really prohibitive to women, unless it can be subdivided and the heavier work given to the men.

It is stated that women are less reliable than men owing to more frequent absences on account of illness. Figures supplied by certain insurance companies show that between the ages of 21 and 40 women's absences are 15 per cent. as against men's 5¾ per cent., though below 21 years of age there is hardly any difference.

2. Certain forms of work are believed to be bad for a woman's character or debasing to her taste, so as to make her less fit to care for and train the next generation. Here the problem is more difficult, and where these difficulties are real, probably improvements could sometimes be made in conditions and hours of work. It may be suspected that in many cases conditions which are stated to be morally or intellectually bad for women are not altogether beneficial for men!

3. The comparative shortness of women's industrial career has led employers to regard time given to the acquisition of technical knowledge by women as wasted. Young girls employed make up so large a proportion of the total amount of female labour that it is customary to treat them as if, industrially, they never grew up. In most trades there is a certain amount of work requiring somewhat more experience, which absorbs the comparatively small proportion of women who do not marry, or who remain permanently in industry after marriage.

4. Women in the main do not regard their occupation as their life's work. The desirability of a woman as a business investment is minimised by the probability of her marrying, and in the majority of cases her consequent withdrawal from the trade. In any case, it is stated that her attitude to marriage causes her attitude to her work to be less stable than that of the men. In many trades it is said that women require more supervision than men, owing to what appears to be their lack of initiative and timidity with regard to responsible work. They are less ambitious and more content to remain in positions which make little demand upon them.

EXAGGERATION OF WOMEN'S LACK OF STRENGTH.

Lack of physical strength, as set forth in (1), is, of course, a serious obstacle against women's employment in certain occupations, but it has been greatly exaggerated. Those who maintain that women cannot handle, for example, the rolls of cloth dealt with by a draper's assistant, seem to forget the hundreds of thousands of women who carry heavy children about, in addition to performing all the scrubbing and washing and ironing, the cooking and mending and making that fall to the lot of the respectable working-class mother. No outcry is ever raised that the mother's physical strength is insufficient for such heavy work as this. A 28lb. infant weighs as much, after all, as a 28lb. bale of cloth!

With regard to the greater amount of absence from illness, the Report points out that "the lower wages of women and the double strain imposed by their home duties often react upon their health and increase the natural sex disparity." The same holds good of difference of muscular strength. If women could afford to buy better food, and pay someone else to cook it, their efficiency would be greatly increased. But even in this respect reports do not all agree. There are cases where the men's hours off owing to "illness" have been more frequent than the women's.

THEIR WANT OF AMBITION.

Want of ambition, as stated in (4), does undoubtedly stand greatly in the way of women's progress in industry, largely because the majority expect their work to be ended by marriage, and are, therefore, content to earn a pocket-money wage. Girls who take their work seriously are unfairly handicapped by the competition of those who are ready to work for small pay and will not trouble to make themselves efficient. Not only do these keep down the standard of wages, but they also lower the status of the woman worker, because they will not exert their full powers. If they do not marry, and it gradually dawns upon them that their earnings may come to represent not merely pocket-money but a livelihood, it may by that time be too late to get themselves out of their accustomed groove. Years of easy routine work dull the power of initiative, and are a bad preparation for positions of responsibility.

In view of the fact that the numerical disproportion between the sexes will be considerably increased by the war, it is important that girls should be induced to face the probability of having to maintain themselves, and encouraged to take a more

ambitious view of their work. An educative campaign on these lines should achieve very valuable results, and is a service which experienced women might usefully undertake. Where girls have been really keen on their work, and have been given a chance to show what they could do—as in the case of the girls in the Glasgow munition factory, mentioned in last week's issue of The Common Cause, they have done astonishingly well, and shown initiative and resource.

In this particular case patriotism afforded the required stimulus. It remains to be seen whether, after the war, women's ambition can be aroused by other motives.

After the War.

As yet it is too soon to foretell what will be the position after the war of the women who have entered new industries, but the British Association's Report makes some interesting suggestions. The investigators have come to the conclusion that though, as a rule, men returning from the war will be taken back by their employers, it will not always be in their old position.

"In some cases, of course, the experience gained during the war has shown that certain jobs, *e.g.*, lift attendants, can be more efficiently done by women than by men. In such cases employers intend either to take back their particular men who return, and as they are promoted or fall out of industrial life to substitute women later in their places, or else better jobs will be offered to the men and the women will be kept on. It is probable that when girls have replaced boys in blind-alley occupations they are likely permanently to remain, as they have proved in most cases more efficient and reliable and are likely to remain longer."

In non-industrial occupations, too, apart from work on railways, it is considered that a large number of women are likely to remain. In many cases, however, the women who have replaced men will be dispensed with, those who have been drawn from other trades no doubt returning as their trades revive, and the others going back to their accustomed work.

On the whole, the opinion of the investigators is that after the war the proportion of women in industry will be greater than before, and the competition of men and women will increase, especially "where female labour is either underpaid or is obviously superior to male labour, a special inducement offers itself to employers to retain the women."

An interesting point of view was put forward by Mr. A. Evans, of the Amalgamated Union of Paper Workers, at the meeting of the British Association, on Thursday, September 9th. He considered that when the war was over there was not going to be a large influx back to the factories and the land. We should have to reckon on the frontiers of France and Belgium being the frontiers of our own country, and we should have to be in the position to put three million of men into the field at any given time. A big bounty would be offered to every man to serve six years with the colours and then in the reserve; and this would mean that the women workers were coming into the market to stay. Labour objected to women being employed to lower the wages of industry, and it was "up to" the British Association to see that these women were not exploited.

Opportunities for Training.

It is also "up to" the various women's organisations to see that women's labour is not exploited, and that girls get their fair share of opportunities for training.

The report points out that there is little likelihood of a superabundance of highly-skilled labour of either sex, and states, as a hopeful sign, that the trade unions are entering upon a policy of preventing the undercutting of men by women rather by regulating women's wages than by excluding them altogether from the more skilled processes.

"The highly-paid skill workers, as a class, are not likely to be detrimentally affected by the augmentation of their numbers, whether the recruits come from one sex or both. It is the reserve of cheap unskilled or semi-skilled labour which hitherto has seemed almost inexhaustible which is their real danger; the installation during the war of plant such as requires only unskilled and semi-skilled labour, because no labour of a higher order is available, has only increased the difficulty in this respect."

Flesh and Blood Machines.

Another point which deserves the most careful consideration was raised in the course of Thursday's discussion.

It is to the interest of the community to have the greatest possible number of *skilled workers*. The perils of competition between men and women do not lie in that direction. It is the ***unskilled*** woman worker, not the woman with industrial ambition, which leads her to desire to become a skilled worker, who is the dangerous element in the labour market. The evil to be checked is the tendency of the employer to fill his factory with machines of flesh and blood, as well as of metal. And the better technical training of boys and girls, in order to reduce the number of unskilled workers, is one of the best ways of preventing the evil.

First-Hand Experiences.

IV.—THE WAR CENSUS.

There was one other woman-volunteer out of nine enumerators, but she was so "accustomed to public speaking," so well endowed with the wider tact which comes from many dealings with all and sundry, that my own inexperience sat the more heavily upon me. I had no idea what would happen, but I did know that whatever it was I was unprepared for it. My district did not inspire me with confidence. It included the palace of a princess and the village doss-house. I started out, delivering my papers in fear and trembling, expecting (symbolically, at any rate) to be hit over the head for inquisitive questionings, but I never received even a surly word.

When Sunday morning came I learned by chance that the princess was actually in residence, so I telephoned to find out how many servants had come with her. Extra papers were sent up for the retinue. Apparently the princess desired to sign hers, for she filled it in, and only regretted that she was unable to describe herself as "skilled" in anything.

At nine o'clock that night a policeman looked in to say that twelve tramps had arrived at the common lodging-house (I had previously asked him to keep a look out for me), also to report that the family at the dripping-shop had accidentally burnt their papers and wanted some more!

By this time my extra supply had run out, and I had to call on the clerk to get duplicate forms and come with them to the square at nine-thirty, where I was to meet the friendly policeman, who had promised to come with me. Through devious ways and court-yards, he led me into a sort of scullery, where, by the light of a guttering candle, I rested my book on the edge of a sink, and copied out the names from the illiterate ledger kept by the Italian lodging-house keeper.

Most of the tramps by this time were in bed, and the rest, returning half-seas-over from the "Lion and Lamb" opposite, were in no state to add to my slender stock of information. Their "skill," if any, remains unrecorded.

"It never can happen again." So I cannot hope that my experience will be of any use to others who might follow in my footsteps. But so much has been said and written about the war census from every likely and unlikely point of view, that to complete the survey I add my little final offering—that of the

Enumerator.

TRAINING FOR MUNITION WORK.

The London Society for Women's Suffrage has arranged to hold acetylene-welding classes twice daily, in order to give a thorough training in this branch of employment for women. The Society state that they cannot guarantee that employment will follow the training, but there are a sufficient number of immediate openings for welders, and they feel justified in advising women who can afford the training to undertake it at once.

Such work is paid at the rate of 6d. to 10d. per hour; the hours are from ten to twelve hours daily. The welding of joints for munition or aircraft parts is not heavy, but it is responsible work. Nobody should attempt to take it up unless she is prepared to carry it out thoroughly and with the utmost conscientiousness. The character of the worker is of the utmost importance, for it will penetrate the whole of her work.

The Japanese women, who prepare the sterilised bandages for the hospitals, are told before they begin their day's work that each one of them holds the life of a man in her hand at every moment, and the slightest carelessness on her part may cost the nation a life. The acetylene-welders are required to set about their tasks in the same spirit, for the life and safety of a man, or even of many men, is entrusted to them with each joint they weld. To the conscientious, and nobody else should attempt acetylene-welding, it is one of the most attractive departments of munition work, and one peculiarly suitable for women.

Other classes have also been formed for training women and girls for the work of tracing mechanical drawings for workshop use, and drafting for engineers.

Those desirous of joining the classes should communicate with Miss P. Strachey, the London Society for Women's Suffrage, 58, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.

There is no scheme for housing during training, each person being expected to make her own arrangements. The fee for the course of twelve lessons is one guinea.

Correspondence.

THE "ASQUITH" RESOLUTION.

MADAM,—I never was of opinion that the "Asquith resolution" was a party resolution; if I had been I would not have supported it. I knew that people of opposing parties approved Mr. Asquith's speech, and those who were very insistent that we were "a united nation" must surely have agreed to support the Prime Minister. If members of the Council found on reflection that their "knowledge was not sufficient" to act upon the resolution, surely their "knowledge was not sufficient" to pass the resolution, and the Council should have formally rescinded it. Now it cumbers the ground, for no one knows what it means, and members of the National Union may, or do, publicly attack its principles, while others apparently err by supporting them.

Another question that still puzzles me is, under which of the two categories of non-Suffrage work permitted by the National Union (Mrs. Fawcett categorically gives them as "to relieve economic distress or calculated to sustain the vital energies of the nation") are we to class the courses of lectures recommended by the Executive? This is not an academic question; it is one of practical immediate importance to those organising lectures. If the officers had not written to THE COMMON CAUSE, I would not have troubled you, Madam. But public letters demand public replies.

H. M. SWANWICK.

GERMAN TRADE AS POLITICAL PROPAGANDA.

MADAM,—As I write I have before me a leaflet published by the Anti-German Union. I think a fair-minded person, reading through its aims and objects, its policy, national, commercial, and industrial, would be more inclined to agree with Mrs. Osler's description of the spirit which animates the Anti-German Union than A. Spon's claim that the Union is the outcome of patriotism and common sense. A. Spon declares that it does not inculcate hatred against individual Germans; but is it possible to form within ourselves a union for the purpose of injuring an entire nation without raising the antagonism and resentments of all the patriotic individuals of that nation? We talk much now of the unity of the British people; but that unity has grown and prospered among us, not because the struggles between the people which compose the British race were followed by long-drawn-out periods of race hatred engendered by those struggles, but because there has always been present in the human race those who stood for fairness, justice, and tolerance. . . . In the attempts of the Anti-German Union to clear Britain and British official life from people of German birth, it signals out members of the Privy Council, members of both Houses of Parliament, and Consuls; but why so few? Why does it not include, as it logically must, the present occupant of the British throne? . . . And yet A. Spon claims that patriotism and common sense created and evolved the Anti-German League, and that it does not foster a spirit of intolerance and hatred! A rather flippant little shop-girl assured a friend of mine the other day that the people she served supplied no German goods; but, she remarked, "that does not matter, we can get what we want from Japan." Does the Anti-German Union propose to enlarge its scope of action to include eventually the Japanese when, in the process of time, they have become our commercial rivals, and it is necessary to destroy our rival or perish in the attempt?

N. O'SHEA.

THE WASTE OF INFANT LIFE.

MADAM,—May I through your columns make an appeal to the women of England to save the babies? "The continued decline in the birth-rate revealed by the quarterly returns of the Registrar-General, coupled with the general increase in mortality among infants is causing grave anxiety. Much indirect benefit is expected from the new Notification of Births Act passed on July 22nd" (*The Times*, August 20th). I have waited in vain during the past month for some reference to this Act and its practical working. With a dropping birth-rate at home and a rising death-rate at the Front, it is not well that our annual toll of nearly 100,000 babies dead under one year of age (and another 100,000 children dead under fifteen years of age, as well as a pre-natal loss of 120,000 unborn babes) bids fair to be surpassed this year, unless, indeed, the women of England set to work without delay on a National Baby-Saving Crusade.

The Local Government Board Circular of July 29th, 1915, announced the coming into force on September 1st of the Notification of Births (Extension) Act, 1915, whereby the birth of a child must be notified (under penalty) within 36 hours of the event, and drew attention to the Board's Circular of July 30th, 1914, dealing with every aspect of pre-natal, natal, and post-natal conditions of mother and child, especially with regard to the schemes for the establishment of maternity and infant clinics, and to the Government grant of 50 per cent. of the cost of any such schemes approved by the Board.

It has been estimated that the cost of supervision per baby (and its mother) in such clinic should not exceed 10s. per annum, and that there should be available two health visitors per 1,000 births in every district.

With our annual gift of some 800,000 babies this means an annual expenditure of less than £400,000, with 1,600 health visitors for the whole country.

We have at present about 500 centres, controlling some 50,000 babies. These must be increased tenfold at least. Many a Medical Officer of Health is only too willing to set to work, but he lacks the support of his Council and of the public.

Will not the City Mothers, the Lady Mayoresses, the Mayoresses, Women Councillors, and others set to work immediately and arrange public meetings at their town halls, to make possible the expressed wish of the Local Government Board that "local authorities who have not already taken steps in the matter, will do so before the onset of the hot weather, with its special dangers to infants and children"? But, indeed, every season is full of dangers to infants and children, and no time should be lost. I and others are prepared to address such meetings, to explain the scheme for saving the babies, and to do whatever lies in our power to arouse practical enthusiasm on this grave matter, far, far graver than the death-rate suggests, for behind this lies the damage rate, which cannot be estimated in figures, but which means the maiming of hundreds of thousands. England has need of all her babies, and we must not rest while a single expectant mother or babe in need of help suffers for lack of it. Alderman Broadbent eleven years ago reduced the infant mortality by 50 per cent. in a ward of Huddersfield by tackling the preventable causes of death and of maiming. What one man could do at a time when public interest was dormant, should not be impossible in every town of England now that we realise the danger in our midst. The report of every Medical Officer of Health reveals at a glance the course to pursue.

May we not hope that, following the example of the "Mothers' Arms"—that public-house at 436, Old Ford Road, Bow, converted into a milk-house, crêche, maternity, and infant clinic—many a public-house up and down the country may be turned into a Mothers' Arms, aye, and a Fathers' Arms, too—where advice and practical sympathy and healing may be had for the asking by those who are falling by the wayside, some crushed perchance by grief and anxiety and seeking relief and oblivion where these are least to be found in any real sense?

Then, indeed, the fathers and mothers of England may be saved through their babies, and in other slums may flourish beautiful little creatures such as greet us and comfort us at Old Ford Road in these dread days of ceaseless loss.

BARBARA TCHAYKOVSKY, M.D.

Langham House, Harrow.

(*Since the above letter was written we learn that the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality and for the Welfare of Infancy intends undertaking an autumn campaign on lines advocated by Mr. Broadbent. A meeting will be held in London at the Mansion House on October 26th.*—ED., "C.C.")

JAM *v.* MARMALADE.

MADAM,—May I call attention to another piece of national economy? The more English fruit we preserve this autumn the better, from the point of view of preventing waste in the orchards. But the preserving of plums and blackberries and the making of apple jelly from windfalls has another advantage. Why should we spend money which we cannot afford to pay away now in war time upon importing oranges, and bitter oranges next winter? Damson cheese, quince marmalade, and plum jam, made now, will all do their duty at the breakfast-table. And now is the time to lay up stores of these wholesome delicacies, not forgetting

BLACKBERRY JELLY.

ODDS AND ENDS OF WOOL.

MADAM,—Will you very kindly allow me to appeal to your readers for any odd balls, or half balls, of wool which they may have left over from their knitting? We are making knitted patchwork rugs for prisoners of war in Germany—many of whom suffered intensely from the cold last winter—and we shall be most grateful for any odd scraps.

(Miss) G. E. HADOW.

Foss Lodge, Cirencester.

A PLEA FOR THE COMING GENERATION.

We have received an appeal from Miss K. Harvey, on behalf of the Brackenhill Hospital for British Women and Children and Refugees, at 47, Highland Road, Bromley, Kent, which was opened in October to meet the growing shortage of accommodation for civilians, owing to the increasing number of wounded brought into London hospitals. The Hospital contains a maternity ward, in connection with which a school for mothers is being started, and part of its work has been the care and feeding of women, generally mothers of young families, to fit them to undergo operations, after which they return to Brackenhill for recovery. Miss Harvey points out that:—

"The heavy death roll of young and healthy men must seriously affect the coming generation, therefore it becomes a national duty of more than ordinary importance to keep the mothers—actual and potential—in a high state of efficiency, physically and mentally, and the children robust, for in them, more than ever, lies our hope for the life of the world to come. Care and rest for the mothers *before* birth have a startling effect on the children—startling because accusing—they are heavier, in better condition, and make more rapid progress. . . . As to the child patients, many would get no help at all if we did not take them in. We reckoned last winter that on an average we had to refuse three cases a day for want of accommodation. Naturally, with public interest concentrated on the front, work at the back is apt to be somewhat overlooked, and I find it very difficult to get enough money for our needs, which are many and expensive. . . . We appeal mostly for weekly or monthly donations, however small, for drawing-room meetings or any sort of entertainment that will bring in money, for help in kind, especially eggs. We invite inspection at any time. No appointment need be made. We prefer friends to see us in our ordinary daily life."

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WHAT THEY SAID IN THE RESTAURANT.

A Snapshot after a Zeppelin Raid.

Three courses for sevenpence (the odd penny we owe to the war), but nothing charged for the feast of reason and the flow of soul. So we talk, and our talk is free and flowing.

Our table, which is built for four, generally holds six in amicable discussion; if we cannot squeeze in we wait on one leg, eyeing the other man eating his porridge. If a strange bird perches we look at him consideringly. He may, of course, have as good a right as ourselves, but has come a little out of his time, in which case the waitress knows him. But if she receives his order without social change it is clear we may look at him with reserve, and wonder why he didn't choose a larger table. Ours is set away from the general stream of custom; it is heated more than is agreeable in August by subterranean boilers. We like it because it is endeared to us by custom; but that he should ask for discomfort is suspicious. We have heard of spies.

As we eat we talk. "Nonsense," says our Prophet, shaking his handsome grey head. "The Germans will never get hold of Warsaw." A week later he has "given up prophecying," but "mark my words, there'll be a change in a fortnight's time."

"One of my greatest disappointments of the war, in a small way," says the man in the corner, "has been the way old Richter has taken it. Look what he owes to England!"

"And what England owes to Richter," cries another, joyously taking up the cudgels. "What's he done, anyhow? Only called names like the rest of us; made a silly ass of himself, of course, but he isn't the first, and he won't be the last, poor old boy!"

"Try fritter and asparagus stew. If you don't like it you can always leave it." "Not in war-time. I say, old fellow, would you mind handing me a clean spoon, my first pick isn't lucky."

"I generally come here," said the girl. "On the whole, I think I dislike the food here less than anywhere."

"Have you tried soaking raisins in water?" (this from a thin-faced woman with a little boy in a feeder: a friend of the waitress, apparently, but new to our table). They swell up like grapes, and eat wonderful with a rice pudding." She feels like the rest of us, that everything good should be shared in these times.

The man in the corner represents decent public opinion; he is never extreme, never original; he states the case judicially as he has read it in his approved newspaper. We are given to understand that he is broadminded, and that his sympathies are not bounded by England's shores. He speaks of "our friend the enemy," as one who does his best according to his lights. He has even known a German who seemed, to all intents and purposes, an Englishman.

The man at the head of the table will have none of it. "Once a German always a German" is his experience. "D'ye mean to tell me ——!" The man in the corner doubles up and gives ground under the flow of accusation, though he has his back to the wall.

"What I says is, they shouldn't let 'em get here at all: make spillikens of 'em in the North Sea; that's the mark."

"I put my nose out of my back door and saw it right up above, in a line with the end of it. Jolly fine sight, if there hadn't been something to it—if you know what I mean. I'm sorry for the women and kids; that sort of thing upsets 'em."

"My wife is as pleased as Punch she's seen them: ready to sing the 'Nunc Dimittis.'"

"It went off with its tail hanging. What's the story about Hackney Marshes?"

"I came in and found my son reading a book on 'holiday resorts.' 'We've visitors to-night,' he says, and goes on smoking. I wish the Germans could have seen him!" "They say there are to be twenty-five of them on Friday, so I hear."

"If any one talks to you about Zeppelins," says the Prophet, rising and bending his head in courteous farewell to us all, "just you knock him down!" C. M.

NEW WORK FOR WOMEN.

The Government, through the Civil Service Commissioners, has decided to employ a certain number of women to do the work connected with separation allowances which has hitherto been done by officers of the Customs and Excise. This new departure may lead to a further employment of female labour by the Goverment, but at present it is not intended to employ women on this work outside London.

CAREERS FOR GIRLS.

The Dangers of Hasty Training.

The papers read at the Educational Science Section of the British Association's Meeting at Manchester on September 10th, deserve the attention of every educated woman. Miss Haldane entered a vigorous protest against the false economy which would flood the market with inefficient men and women, and hoped that the war would lead the nation to set to work in a thorough-going manner to prepare women for commercial and industrial as well as for professional work. At present large numbers of young girls drift into the position of office-drudges at a very early age, and remain undeveloped, mentally and physically. Miss Haldane thought that, in order to put a stop to this state of things, the whole system of school examinations should be altered, and that school-leaving certificates ought to testify to a good general education and the attainment of a standard of mental development. Mrs. W. L. Courtney thought that the Government departments were "sinners above all others" in producing large numbers of such office-drudges. They encouraged girls to go through the strain of competitive examinations at an early age, sometimes before they were sixteen, and not only deteriorated their own employées, but flooded the market with the rejected candidates, for there were ten failures for every girl who passed. Mrs. Courtney thought that girls should receive a good general training up to the age of sixteen. Professional and vocational training should then follow. Good results were seldom seen from employing women-clerks below the age of eighteen. Miss R. Oldham saw another danger. The fact that so many young women had their development early arrested by premature office-work told against the employment of women, tended to keep the intelligent and better trained in the lowest and most subordinate positions, which are almost regarded as women's place in the business world.

The broad foundation of a good general education should be laid in every case, immature workers should not be hurried into the market, as at present, and in the preparation for life, at home or outside it, we should bear in mind the high ideal of William James (quoted by Miss Haldane), "The best educated mind is the one which has the largest stock of ideas, ready to meet the largest possible variety of circumstances in life."

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ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS *to be addressed to The Manager,* THE COMMON CAUSE, *14, Great Smith St., Westminster, S.W., and all* ADVERTISEMENTS *must reach the Office not later than first post on Wednesday. Advertisement representative, S. R. Le Mare.*

The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 52,000 men and women who have banded themselves together, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time suspended their ordinary political activities, in order to put themselves and their Union at the service of those who are organising the relief of distress caused by the war.

Everyday Luxuries.

One of the many points on which we are are an absolutely united nation is "no luxuries in time of war." It is our cherished conviction. Has anybody heard a dissentient voice, in public, except perhaps a little half-hearted bluster from the promoters of some of the luxury trades; but even they lower their voices and talk a good deal about "true economy," which somehow always means more expenditure. The rest of us set ourselves quite seriously to seek out and cut down our wants and luxuries—and the fun begins!

The first gleam of fun came with watching the economies of our neighbours. In the honest effort to set an example, rather than to preach to others, some parade is apt to be made of luxuries given up. Each exhibit is a new revelation—something shocking or merely piquant to the owners of incomes on the smaller ranges. A great lady decides that no one need give more than two guineas for a hat. Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Smith meet and hold up their hands. "I never gave more than a guinea for a hat in my life! And as for that purple one I had last autumn, why it cost—&c., &c." Then comes the glow of virtuous feeling over the retrospect!

Yet another lady of brilliant intellect and social gifts declares, on the other hand, that her hats never cost more than fivepence three-farthings, were trimmed for eighteenpence, and last for three years. And no one gainsays her, for it is so obviously true. After all, it is a puzzle for the parsimonious to decide when a woman's hat is "worn out."

The economies of the rich have a fascination at all times for the poorer. How brilliant must be the existence from which such superfluities are spared! And how is it possible not to get a smile of complacency out of the news that the Blanks have reduced the number of their servants to twelve, and put down five motor-cars! We all remark that "the amount of luxury in this country before the war was something appalling!" and add, comfortably, that "the war has done good." So it has, to some extent. It has cut down other people's luxuries. We, ourselves, really never had any to cut down. Or, if we had, we never quite knew what they were. Still, we begin looking for them. Meat? Oh, yes; meat more than once a day is not a necessity. Orders are given; it is not quite certain how far they are carried out in the kitchen, but in the dining-room there is meat only once a day. But, perhaps, in the same house, about eight o'clock in the morning, half-a-dozen little trays, each containing a teapot, will go up to half-a-dozen bedrooms. Lord Beaconsfield said something to the effect that the luxuries of one generation become the necessaries of the next. This luxury became a necessary within living memory. Early morning tea is still, however, what may be called an excrescence in our expenditure; other luxuries have become so much a part of our lives that even the elect, the very aristocracy of thrift, whose household accounts are a veritable object-lesson in the skill of adapting the means to the end, have not yet attempted seriously to grapple with the problems which now stare us all in the face. The best and bravest of us think economy is a synonym for "keeping down the bills," and a luxury gotten cheaply is an "economy" still. We have not looked below the surface at all.

It would be a bold reformer, for instance, who would take the line hinted at, rather than suggested, by the Govern-

ment when we are asked not to waste water or coal. Every gallon of water from the waterworks means an outlay of human labour, energy, and *coal* to keep the great pumping-engines going, which raise the water from the river level to fill our cisterns. Coal is dear and labour is precious. But the bathroom has become a peculiarly British institution, and is considered a "necessity," which means that it is supposed to be impossible for a self-respecting Briton to wash in less than twenty gallons of water—cold or hot. Of course, on examination, we are ready to admit that it is possible and even pleasant to wash ourselves in two gallons or so, in the india-rubber travelling baths, for example, which we used to take "abroad." But we would rather not do it unless we are obliged. What a chorus would go up at once if anybody rashly proposed to abolish the British bathroom. "A house without a bathroom is unthinkable! It's so nice to lie at full-length in plenty of nice hot water! It's so delightful to get the cold plunge, &c., &c." It is nice; it is delightful; it is a luxury, in short! But is it necessary?" Did not Miss Florence Nightingale say "that cleanliness did not mean splashing and taps," and that an able nurse could wash a patient from head to foot from a tumblerful of water? A tumblerful was, perhaps, a Crimean allowance, but as far as mere cleanliness is concerned two gallons are just as effective as twenty.

The British bathroom is a sort of fetish. To it we all cheerfully sacrifice the efficiency of the kitchen-range, which seldom satisfactorily performs the double duty of heating the boilers and cooking the food. For its sake our mutton is hard-boiled and our beef scorched black. For its sake we waste millions of tons of coal per annum, most of it burned in case we should want hot water, not because we use it; for the hot-water cistern is often allowed to cool unused. And, lastly, the waterworks must spend huge sums, again on coal, to feed the engines that pump up our wasteful extravagant supplies. It is on this ground that the pamphlets on saving beg us to be sparing in our use of water.

But so long as we cling to the fixed bath we are bound to waste water and coal or gas. If there were no boiler system to heat the kitchen fire would be out most of the day. Or a gas-cooker could be used. Or, better still, a French stove might be introduced into the British kitchen. On such a stove, fed with wood, coke, or coal, food may be kept simmering in a jar at a gentle heat, without having recourse to a saucepanful of water into which the jar must be plunged. On such a stove a dinner fit for a prince was cooked in a couple of hours under the writer's eyes, the cook-artist keeping her supply of coke in her apron-pocket! The same recipes, tried over a gas-fire, suffered somewhat from the fiercer heat. Of course, where the hot-water system is heated by a special furnace, there is much less waste of fuel; the waste of water remaining the same.

The apologist for the bathroom will then probably say, first, that the bath is there in position; and, secondly, that it saves so much labour in the house. The reply to the first objection is that any wasteful institution tends to become chronic; but the plea that a large fixed bath "saves so much labour" need not be considered for a moment. A low, broad, lead-lined space, such as is usually laid under a bath, provided with suitable drainage; a cold tap above it, and a small geyser or other hot-water apparatus, a moveable sponge bath, easily filled and easily emptied, standing on the space—and behold! instead of a bathroom you have a room with a bath in it, which makes less work than the huge fixed bath, with its daily-tarnished taps and the white-enamelled surface that wearies the housemaid's arms as she scrubs it out. In the case of converting a large house into flats, or re-organising an old-fashioned house, the expense of this kind of bathroom is decidedly less.

Early hours are also recommended as the best way of cutting down our gas and electric-light expenditure. "Daylight-saving" has been preached pretty extensively of late years to us, the latest risers in Europe. It would be an interesting bit of research to discover when we began to lie so late a-bed of a morning, shortening the working day at the daylight end. From casual allusions to our habits in books of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, it would seem that their day began earlier then than does ours. In the fourteenth century, in Chaucer's age, rising at daybreak appears to have been a matter of course:—

> "Ere it was day, as she was wont to do,
> She was arisen and all ready dight."

One great charm of his poems is the continual recurrence of allusions to sunrise and the "morne when the daye gan spring," and the "freischnesse" of the early sunlit day. The "luxury" of lying in bed till eight, and of sitting up till after midnight, is, however, so much part of our daily existence that we would no more hear of rising "with the sonne" than of doing away with our idol the bathroom. If any one dared to speak out plainly and tell us these things we should be mute with wrath till we found our tongues and called the man, in plain language, "Faddist!" War Savings Committees know this, and quail; all they dare to say is: "A very considerable saving in the light and fuel bill might be made by going to bed at an earlier hour."

The Lure of the Mare's Nest.

At one time we heard a great deal—perhaps too much—about the lure of the drink. Was it all an exaggeration?—not the shortage of munitions, but the responsibility of the workers for the so-called "broken time," and the extent to which alcoholic indulgence was the cause.

THE COMMON CAUSE, in a recent "Note," quoted *The Herald* as stating that Mr. Lloyd George, in a private conference with the Labour leaders, verbally acquitted the men of all blame.

Very well. But why, then, has the Central Control Board scheduled large areas, embracing thousands of working men, and imposed drastic restrictions upon the liberty of both the men and the Trade. Can it be that, after all, while neither the men nor the Trade are to be blamed, the Drink itself is to be held responsible? Or was the loudly-trumpeted indictment of the working man, and, in a secondary degree, of the liquor trade, in reality a mare's nest, ingeniously constructed by the Northcliffe Press, to be discovered in due time as a sensational exaggeration, just as in the case of drinking among women and in that of the reputed war babies? To do Mr. Lloyd George justice, he was careful to point out from the first that, while the effect was widespread, it was only a minority of the workers who were directly disabled by excess. He even safeguarded his position by naming other causes than drink, though to it he gave the chief place. How did it come about, then, that he succeeded in antagonising both Labour and the Trade, and in creating the impression that he either grossly exaggerated the evil or ignominiously failed in his attempt to grapple with it?

Among the readers of THE COMMON CAUSE are many of our younger women, who are anxious to qualify themselves both by the study of social questions and by active service during the crisis, for the discharge of their duty as electors, when their enfranchisement is secured. What guidance can we offer them when they are faced with such a perplexing and controversial subject as the extent to which alcoholic indulgence is responsible for inefficiency in the State?

Mr. Arthur Sherwell, one of the most painstaking of social inquirers, and most moderate of temperance reformers, says that one of the very few compensations for the tragedy of war is that it brings a nation face to face with social facts that in ordinary times evoke little comment. Eleven years ago he published the results of special inquiries he had made as to the extent of broken time due to drink in various industries. Among certain classes of workmen in the great shipbuilding yards the time lost from *avoidable* causes averaged, during twelve weeks, no less than 20 per cent. In weeks affected by pay days (wages being paid fortnightly) the loss averaged 27 per cent. In the alternate weeks it fell to 13½ per cent., or exactly one-half. He says: "It is not to be assumed that the *whole* of this broken time was due to drinking habits alone, but a considerable portion was undoubtedly so due. In Port Glasgow it was authoritatively stated that the expenditure upon drink in a prosperous year amounted to an average for each family of £30 per annum."

While Mr. Sherwell, with characteristic caution, does not attempt to define the proportion of lost time *directly* attributable to drink, the members of the Shipbuilding Federation, who waited upon Mr. Lloyd George, stated that, speaking with the experience of from twenty-five to forty years, they believed that 80 per cent. of the present *avoidable* loss of time could be ascribed to no other cause than drink.

Was Mr. Lloyd George to blame for accepting this, and confirmatory statements by officials, as representing the true state of the case? He has shown himself to be a past master in the art of conciliating the working men, once a dispute has arisen between them and their employers. How is it that in this case (and, apparently, in the case of trade union restric-

tions upon output) he failed to anticipate that by accepting the version of the employers, without first consulting the chosen representatives of the workers, he was bound to create a sense of injustice, however he might guard his statement. It must be admitted that, with a view to rousing public attention, he used language which readily lent itself to the charge of exaggeration. He spoke of drink as a greater enemy than Germany. History may yet admit that, surveying the life of the nation as a whole, it is a bare statement of fact. But to this generation it must at least appear to be the language of hyperbole. And its use had the immediate effect of uniting the protests of the representatives of Labour and of the acknowledged champions of vested interests. Seizing upon such isolated phrases and ignoring the qualifications, the insulted worker and the imperilled trade roused an agitation that drowned the voice of reason. May it not be this exaggeration of the indictment against the workers, and not the indictment itself, that earns the title of mare's nest?

The steps now being taken by the Central Control Board, *if* they succeed in reducing the lure of drink and its effects, will afford better evidence than any statistics, however carefully compiled. Special attention should be paid by students to the attempts now being made (with—for the first time—State assistance) to carry out constructive temperance reform. It is in this effort that women and women's societies may render valuable aid, and, by studying its operation and results, form a considered and impartial judgment that may guide them in the long years of reconstruction to which we all look forward after the war.

D. B. McLaren.

P.S.—The effect of the Central Control Regulations upon the number of prosecutions and convictions for drunkenness is shown by the following table just published :—

	Average of 4 previous weeks.	First week after.	Second week after.
Newcastle	76	36	43
Gateshead	28	9	5
South Shields	19	12	8
Middlesbrough	45	14	17
	Last week before.	First week after.	
Liverpool	217	118	

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AT THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

The Forty-Seventh Annual Congress of Trade Unions, at Bristol, has been a record one both in attendance and the importance of the discussions. Over 600 delegates were present, representing three millions of workers. Naturally, tremendous interest has been centred in the great national questions of conscription, the safeguarding of the interests of workers in wartime, the limitation of war profits, and the impromptu visit of Mr. Lloyd George, and the resolutions specially affecting women's work did not come on until late in the programme. But the question of women's position in industry was kept prominently before the Bristol public during Congress week.

On Tuesday afternoon was held the annual meeting of the Women's Trade Union League, when Miss Gertrude Tuckwell presided, and a badge was presented to the local secretary of the Bristol Branch of the Federation of Women Workers (Miss Codrington), who has been adjudged as having done the most for English trade unionism during the year.

Miss Mary Macarthur, Mr. Clynes, M.P., and Mr. Ben Turner all spoke strongly on the need for safeguarding the interests of women in the labour world. Councillor Ayles ended on the true Suffrage note, saying that "man's idea that woman was not his equal was largely due to the fact that her inferior economic value in the labour market could be traced to her inability to vote at elections."

The same evening a crowded meeting was held, under the joint auspices of trade unionists and Suffragists, at the Kingsley Hall, which was decorated with Suffrage banners. Eloquent speeches were made by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Evelyn Sharp, and Mr. George Lansbury, strongly urging the fact that women trade unionists were even then at a disadvantage without the vote. "Women should insist on being comrades and not blacklegs to men."

During the week a letter appeared in the local Press from the Women's Industrial Council, signed by Miss Clementina Black, the president, strongly insisting on equal pay for equal work for women.

The local branch of the Women's Interests Committee is taking great interest in the Congress meetings, and we may hope that the great emphasis laid on the need for proper conditions for women in the industrial world will influence public opinion in Bristol.

THE SUFFRAGE POSITION ABROAD.

What Other Countries are Doing.

At the moment direct Suffrage activity is almost entirely confined to the neutral countries. In the countries which are at war, women's part in national service is certainly so great and so increasingly useful that the Suffrage trumpet is being played harmoniously in the national orchestra. This applies not only to our own country, but also to the women of France, Russia, and Germany. All write of their hopes for the future, based on the growing recognition of women's usefulness in the public service, and of their longing for the time when the fruit of moral and political reform shall spring from the seed which is now, almost unconsciously, being sown.

When one turns to the neutral nations the contrast seems overwhelming. The United States, always pioneers of ingenuity, are at this moment achieving a triumph of organisation. There the Suffrage position has never been more acute. In November four States will vote on the Suffrage amendment—New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. A decision either way will be the Rubicon of American Suffragists. If New York is not won, many women have definitely decided to relinquish State action, and to concentrate on a Federal amendment. Their activities, however, give every prospect of success. New York is naturally the centre of organisation, and to her the other States look for guidance. The Empire State Campaign Committee has successfully carried through a gigantic summer canvassing campaign. Each trade and profession is dealt with in turn, and visited separately. Policemen were found to be good friends of equal Suffrage, which to the uninitiated English mind seems a hopeful sign. "Oh, I think most of the men are with yez," said one man to a canvasser. "More than 75 per cent. of the policemen are Suffragettes!" American women happily combine ingenuity with good humour, which augurs well for their success. Of the urgent need for enfranchisement, it is needless to say more than that one-third, on an average, of the women in the four States are wage-earners.

It is little over three months since the new Danish Constitution granted the franchise to women. In the meantime they have been far from idle. Once the vote is won, the next step is to break down prejudice with regard to the admission of women members into Parliament. No political party has yet offered a safe seat to a woman. It speaks well for women's political judgment that where women stood for doubtful tickets they failed to win. Women will not forego their convictions in favour of the pleasure of voting for their own sex.

The original Danish Suffrage Society has happily fulfilled its own object. It has been dissolved and reorganised into a new Suffrage organisation, ready to maintain its connection with other countries, and especially to support movements in those countries where women are not yet enfranchised.

Sweden is casting envious glances in Denmark's direction. At the summer meeting of Swedish Suffragists, women's influence in the work of peace was largely discussed. But special importance was given to the recent victory in Denmark. Swedish women feel that in their work for peace and progress the vote will play a large part. They are organising new campaigns to break down the last slow resistance to Suffrage. Telegrams were sent to the King and the Premier, urging them to give to Swedish women the same political rights as now belong to the women of other Scandinavian countries. To America and Sweden the women of the belligerent countries look for victories that will strengthen the cause which all have equally at heart.

Jus Suffragii (7, Adam Street, Adelphi, London. 4d.).—In the current number of *Jus Suffragii*, the problems of war and peace are monopolizing. A report is given of the work of the Repatriation section of the International Women's Relief Committee. At the close of the year 1,000 German girls and 260 British women and children have been helped to reach their homes. The Committee were much impressed by the splendid work done by Belgian women, and especially by the co-ordination and unity of the Relief Committees.

An interesting letter appears, written to the President of the French Union for Women Suffrage, by Baron D'Stournelles de Constant. He puts very clearly the position of Frenchwomen, not only with regard to the Hague Conference, but as a part of the nation. Though himself an ardent pacifist, he explains his refusal to advocate a peace which would "betray the cause of feminism, the cause of all progress—that of humanity."

The number includes an interesting biographical sketch of Mrs. Kate Sheppard, who was the heart and soul of the Suffrage movement in New Zealand, itself a pioneer country.

N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

France.

Certain members of the Committee have just returned from a visit of inspection to the hospitals in France, and have expressed themselves as highly satisfied with all they have seen. Royaumont has admitted its 1,000th patient.

From Troyes we hear that the hospital has been honoured by a visit from Rudyard Kipling, who called there on his visit of inspection to hospitals in the district.

It is with very great regret that the Committee have had to accept the resignation of Dr. Laura Sandeman, who, owing to family affairs, has had to return home.

Group of Convalescents at Valjevo.

Serbia.

Kragujevatz and Valjevo. Reinforcements to the number of 33 nurses sailed by transport for those two places on September 11th, to replace other members of the staff returning. Dr. Hollway has taken over the supervision of a military hospital of 200 beds at Lazarovatz, and is there with ten sisters, and the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield as administrator.

Mladanovatz.—The hospital at Mladanovatz, which is under the charge of Dr. Beatrice McGregor, will be known from henceforth as the Madge Neill Fraser Memorial Hospital. It will be remembered that Miss Neill Fraser was one of the orderlies who went out with the first Serbian Unit, and who died in April. The money subscribed for the Madge Neill Fraser Memorial has been raised by golfers all over the United Kingdom.

We have received the following letter from Dr. Alice Hutchison :—

"Well, our hospital has been running quite full, and we have been having more and more cases of enteric. The patients seem a little at sea for a time with the universal spotlessness and unusual amount of ablutions which are required of them, but they settle to it like ducks to water. One naturally gets very attached to some of them, especially to those who spend some time here, and so get into touch with us. As so often happens, with the rapid promotion of war-time, I have suddenly risen to high rank since coming to Valjevo. In Calais I was only "la petite doctoresse," but here I am a full-blown general (with a hard G, of course). What I personally like best is the twinkle in the eyes of some of the patients when they say 'Here comes the General.'

"The camp has been quite lively since I wrote last. We are having weekly 'at homes.' One Saturday we are at home to ourselves only, so to speak; the following Saturday we are at home to our friends of various nationalities. The first 'at home' took a fancy-dress form. As the dinner-hour approached the strangest figures emerged singly or in groups from the tents, eliciting, in many cases, shouts of admiration from their fellows. Soon one began to wonder in what time and clime we really lived. 'Britannia,' 'La République Française,' and 'Belgium' (plaintive, in tatters of the national colours), rubbed shoulders with 'Sairy Gamp,' 'Queen Boadicea,' and two Turkish ladies, while a Suffragette paced the camp with militant strides and scattered leaflets on 'Women's Work and Wages.' These were only a few of the motley crowd.

"One of the prettiest touches in our camp life is the friendship which has sprung up between our handyman and one of the prisoners, a young Hungarian boy called Michael. Michael calls our handyman 'vater,' and though he speaks a (to me, at least) incomprehensible muddle of German, and the handyman speaks broad Scotch, they have no difficulty in understanding one another. One often sees them sitting side-by-side on a packing-case after working hours having a heart-to-heart talk. One night, as they were separating, the handyman was overheard to say: 'Well, a've enjoyed your crack fine, Michael, but a just wisht a'd kent what ye was talking aboot.' Delicious, isn't it?

"After dinner our guests were received to the strains of the Valjevo Military Band, which I was fortunate in securing for the evening, and some of them contributed still further to the motliness of the motley crowd. The Colonel, chef at the French mission, then inspired a grand parade, while I introduced each personage. 'Britannia,' 'Sairy Gamp,' and 'Belgium' won the three prizes, though the Colonel naturally found it hard to consent to allow 'La République Française' (the C.M.O.) to be out of the running. 'La République Française' was represented as follows: Scarlet stockings and a very short scarlet petticoat reaching just below the knees, a bunchy, pleated skirt, and bodice made of copies of *Le Temps* and *Le Matin*, a white blouse with the sleeves rolled up over the elbow, and finished at the throat with a scarlet neckerchief. A broad swathe of national colours carried across the chest and knotted at the side, and a little tri-colour cockade-hat perched on the head.

"Another touch in our camp life seems to me worth putting on paper. In the orchard, where our sick members are being nursed, there sits a little Serbian maid of seven years or thereabouts, who seeks shelter there from the hot sun while tending her cows in the adjoining meadows. This little maid has the most oddly raucous little voice, which spends itself in unmusical and strident shouting (I cannot call it singing) when not admonishing the wayward cows. It seemed a hopeless task to make the child understand how displeasing her musical efforts were to my sick folk, but I attempted it in simple Serbian phrases when I met her one day in the orchard. She fixed her brown eyes on me as I explained the position, and then nodded solemnly when I said, 'Do you understand, little one?' But the strange thing is that the little raucous voice is heard no more! Glad though I was to have achieved what I wanted, I was saddened to think that a little girl of seven should already have the understanding of a woman. Personally, I miss the little raucous voice, but when I meet its owner I smile and say: 'Dobra' (good)."

Off for a Picnic at Valjevo.

We must thank Dr. Mary E. Phillips, who has sent us the very interesting "snapshots" from Valjevo, so that our readers may have some idea of hospital camp life in Serbia in summer time.

Dr. Phillips writes: "The Common Cause is sent to me by friends in Leeds, and is much appreciated not only because it gives us a little news of other units—and *we would like more*—but it keeps up with the wonderful strides that our Cause is making at home during these sad times."

DONATIONS TO N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

	£	s.	d.
Forward, as per list of September 2nd	59,234	8	11
Further donations received to September 9th			
Anon., per Miss S. E. S. Mair (Serbia)	1	0	0
Miss Capes		5	0
Dr. Madge E. Robertson ...	1	0	0
*Mr. and Mrs. James Mackenzie	5	0	0
Miss E. H. Brown	1	0	0
Members of Staff of Kinneil Public School, Bo'ness, per James S. Hunter, Esq., Headmaster	0	15	9½
*Domestic Staff of St. Mary's School, Melrose		10	0
Mrs. Solby, Hon. Treasurer Women's Enfranchisement League, Cape Province per Lady Innes	1	0	0
Lady Innes, President of League, Karatara, Kenilworth, near Cape Town ...	5	0	0
Tomintoul and Kirkmichael Free Gift Sale, per James Taylor, Esq., £16 13s. 4d (France), £16 13s. 4d. (Serbia)	33	6	8
*Mrs. Brown		5	0
*Employees and Firm of Andrew Barclay & Sons, Ltd., to name "Caledonian Works" Bed (Serbia), per Mrs. Robertson		10	0
*Miss Kennedy, September subscription, per Mrs. Mrs. Robertson	50	0	0
Miss McKinnon		5	0
Employees of Bridge of Weir Leather Co., per Clydesdale Bank, Ltd. (Serbia)	6	0	0
*Miss Mary Merry		10	0
*H.F.K., per Mrs. Dymond, Hon. Treas.		10	0
*Collected in Tasmania, per Mrs. Walpole, further for "Tasmania" Beds (Serbia)	20	0	0
Miss Christian Wickham ...	5	0	0
Collection at United Intercessory Service, Ladyloan U.F. Church, per A. Symon, Esq., Messrs. Carven & Symon	2	14	1
Per Miss Allan, collected at Garden Sale	26	5	0
Messrs. Peter Shand & Sons		5	0
Per Miss K. M. Yeaman (in appreciation of services of a Royaumont Orderly) (Royaumont	25	0	0
Mrs. Gilchrist	1	0	0
*Miss Toughill, per Miss Bury (salary returned as donation to Hospital)	4	3	4
Mrs. Morton (Serbia)	1	0	0
*Mrs. W. Ellis (2nd donation for "Murrays" Bed) ...	25	0	0
Miss A. E. Winchester (Serbia)	0	8	6
Mrs. McCallum	0	10	0
*Miss Eliz Rae (monthly donation)		2	6
Dr. and Mrs. Hope	10	0	0
Bainsford and Grahamston Co-op. Baking Soc., Ltd., per J. Jamieson, Esq. ...	10	0	0
Bishopshire Horticultural Society, Kinross, £2; collected at Service of Praise in Portmoak Parish Church, £2 6s., per A. Mitchell, Esq. (Serbia)	4	6	0
Bruntsfield Public School, Edinburgh, per T. J. Robertson, Esq., Headmaster (Serbia)	1	10	0
E. M. Durham, Esq., Atlanta, U.S.A., per Miss M. Durham	2	0	0
Worcester Girls Friendly Society, Festival Collection, per Mrs. Arbuthnot...	6	2	2
Mrs. Taylor, Midlothian, from Sale of Flowers	3	0	0
Miss Mary Allan	1	0	0
Mrs. M. B. Logan	2	0	0
*Alex. Cupples, Esq.	2	0	0
A. C. Weir, Esq., per Mrs. Wood	50	0	0
Mrs. A. C. Weir, per Mrs. Wood, for 2nd six months of "Bellard" Bed	25	0	0
*Herne Bay W.S.S., per Mrs. Field, Hon. Sec.	2	0	0
J. H.	5	0	0
Miss Mary I. Cassels		10	0
Miss M. A. Merriman (Serbia)		2	0
Collected in Caledonian Club, Edinburgh, towards "Charlotte Square Bed	2	7	3
Miss Breck (Serbia)		5	0
Mrs. Clendinnen	1	1	0
J. W., Saltcoats	1	0	0
Total	£59,581	18	2½

* Denotes additional donation.

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"Heroic" (Serbia)	Anon., per Miss Jessie I. Beaven, Hon. Sec. Liverpool Women's War Service Bureau.
"Caledonia Works" (Serbia)	Employees and Firm of Messrs. Andrew Barclay, Sons & Co., Ltd., Caledonia Works, Kilmarnock, per Mrs. Robertson, Morningside, Kilmarnock.
"Bellard" (2nd six months)	Mrs. A. C. Weir, per Mrs. Wood, Barclaven, Kilmalcolm.

Erratum Note.—"Brighton and Hove" Bed, per Surrey, Sussex and Hants Federation, should have been entered as per Miss Merrifield.

The Hon. Treasurer begs once more to thank all friends who have helped and are helping, and will gratefully receive further contributions to carry on the work.

Cheques should be sent either to Dr. Elsie Inglis, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, or to Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock, Hon. Treasurer, and crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland."

WOMEN DOCTORS IN DEVONSHIRE.

The Red Cross Hospital at the Assembly Hall, Torquay, was inspected on September 9th by the King and Queen, who were delighted with all the arrangements and the general management. On leaving, his Majesty informed the Mayor that he had visited something like one hundred hospitals, and had never seen one better managed.

Devonshire has every reason to be proud of its women doctors, for not only is the medical officer in charge of this hospital a woman—Mrs. Sylvia May Payne, M.B., B.S. Lond., to whose initiative and work its efficiency is largely due—but also Dr. Mabel Ramsey has just been appointed to the post of anæsthetist to the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital—the first woman to hold this appointment.

URGENTLY WANTED!

A Special Hospital Number of THE COMMON CAUSE, containing pictures and interesting accounts of the work of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals, will be on sale on Thursday, October 21st, the day of the collection for "Our Wounded." COMMON CAUSE sellers are urgently wanted to sell the paper in the streets of London on that day. Will all who can spare an hour or two kindly write as soon as possible to the Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, who will then send all particulars as to the pitch, &c.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

President: MRS HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries: MISS EVELYN ATKINSON. MISS EDITH PALLISER (Literature). MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary).	*Hon. Treasurer:* MRS. AUERBACH. *Secretary:* MISS GERALDINE COOKE.

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Notice to Federations and Societies.

The Secretary of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies will be pleased to receive any information from Federations or Societies now planning their autumn session work.

The Shop—50, Parliament Street.

Once more we wish to appeal for help from our readers. One of the cases under the Professional Women's Patriotic Service Fund is badly in need of a winter coat and skirt (skirt 40 inches long), to enable her to take up new work, where neat appearance is indispensable.

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1914 ...	1,685	17	7
Received from August 21st to September 11th, 1915:—			
SUBSCRIPTIONS.			
Mr. Frank F. Burrell ...		5	0
Dr. Elizabeth Courtauld ...	2	0	0
Mrs. Sergison		5	0
Miss E. M. LeCocq		2	6
AFFILIATION FEES.			
Carlise W.S.S. (additional) ...		3	0
	£1,688	13	1

Active Service Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged...	7,161	11	2
Miss Milbanke	1	1	0
Mrs. McCleverty (3rd donation)		5	0
Mrs. Templeton	1	0	0
Mrs. Wade Earp		10	0
Mrs. F. S. Tabor	2	0	0
Received for the Professional Women's Patriotic Service Fund:—			
Miss M L. Mathieson		10	0
	£7,166	17	2

Note.—The amount of £7 2s., acknowledged from Mr. H. M. and Miss E. M. Leaf last week, was earmarked for the Scottish Women's Hospital, and will appear under that list in due course.

LOST LETTERS ADDRESSED TO THE N.U.

In view of the fact that several letters containing Cheques and Postal Orders have lately failed to reach us, we shall be glad if any contributors who have not received an acknowledgment will communicate at once with the Hon. Treasurer, at 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. In order to ensure safe delivery all letters containing money should be registered, and all cheques and postal orders should be crossed.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN WORKERS.

The Annual Conference and Council Meetings of the National Union of Women Workers will be held in the Central Hall, Westminster, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, October 5th, 6th, and 7th, 1915, at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. each day. There will also be a large public meeting on Wednesday, 6th, at 8.30. The chief subject for consideration will be "Women's Share in the Work of Reconstruction after the War." A special service will be held in St. Margaret's, Westminster, on Thursday, October 7th, at 6 p.m., the preacher being the Lord Bishop of London. Programmes, giving full particulars, and tickets of admission (the season 3s. 6d., single meetings 1s.) may be obtained from the Secretary, N.U.W.W., Parliament Mansions, Westminster.

In connection with the Conference, a special meeting for girls will be held in the Central Hall on Monday, October 4th, at 3 p.m., and a special meeting for club organisers and social workers at 5.30. Mrs. Runciman will take the chair at the second meeting. The Hon. Lily Montagu will speak on "The discipline of life as promoted by clubs," and Mrs. Arnold Glover will speak on "The joy of life as promoted by clubs." Admission by N.U.W.W. Conference ticket, or 1s. at the door. The N.U.G.C. have also a number of tickets at 6d., which should be applied for during September at 118, Great Tichfield Street.

Our readers will notice an advertisement in another column, asking for a home for a baby boy. Further particulars will be gladly furnished by Miss Longley at THE COMMON CAUSE Office, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.

HOW TO HOLD A STUDY CIRCLE.

[The following notes of a lecture delivered by Mr. Arthur Greenwood, General Secretary of the Council for the Study of International Relations, were taken, by special arrangement, for readers of THE COMMON CAUSE *who were unable to attend the Suffrage Summer School at Cambridge. It is hoped that they will be found a valuable aid to little groups of students who are unable to secure the services of a lecturer, but are anxious to study social questions.]*

The essence of a study circle is, Mr. Arthur Greenwood said, in a lecture at the Suffrage Summer School, held in Cambridge, that it is co-operative in basis, depending for its success upon the co-operative effort of all its members. The leader is not the teacher of a class, but merely leads the way, a first among equals.

A study circle should not consist of more than twenty members, or it grows difficult to secure full discussion, and the meetings, which should be held at least once a week, ought to be quite informal. For each circle a secretary is needed to arrange the meetings, a librarian to take charge of the books, and a leader, if possible a permanent one, or else members might take it in turns.

The leader should have read the book chosen for study beforehand, and at each meeting state the section to be studied at the next meeting, which members should make it a point of honour to read.

If the meeting is to last an hour and a-half the leader, on opening the discussion, should speak for about half an hour, giving a brief review of the main points under consideration. She should give a good deal of time and thought to preparing this review, and be ready to quote from other books, so as to stimulate members to wider reading, and, as far as it is possible, to draw illustrations from current topics and present-day problems.

Illustrations are of great importance. A sheet of brown paper, pinned on the wall, can be used as a blackboard; a classified analysis of the leader's arguments and the topics suitable for discussion as they arise should be written up, and also diagrams and maps, made by the members, should be used.

In the discussion following the leader's opening there is a tendency, Mr. Greenwood said, to confine the discussion to asking questions, and it was for the leader to see that there was a free expression of opinions and the airing of difficulties; that the discussion did not drift away from the point and that it did not degenerate into talk about small matters of detail. Throughout the discussion references should be made to matters discussed at previous meetings, and at the close of the meeting it should be possible to sum up the discussion in a few words.

If something definite does not emerge from this the discussion has been a failure.

When a circle is well established it is sometimes possible to arrange "special nights," with a change of leader, and occasional debates or joint meetings with other study circles.

THE "ENGLISHWOMAN" EXHIBITION.

The annual exhibition of *The Englishwoman*, which will be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, from November 17th-27th, will contain exhibits of the many arts and crafts in which women are experts, but which have suffered considerably through the war. Hand-weaving, jewellery, enamelled glass and inlaid furniture are among some of the exhibits, and it is hoped to provide a market for these handicraft workers who are as yet obliged to depend upon their peace time professions, though many have shown their readiness to serve the nation in any capacity in which their training would make them of value by entering their names on the Women's War Register.

Only the best professional work is accepted for the exhibition, and in some cases exhibitors will be actually at work, executing specimens of their craft.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

Paddington—8, Hatherley Grove, Westbourne Grove (by kind permission of Messrs. William Owen, Ltd.)—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every day, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Blackheath Sewing Party for Scottish Women's Hospital—Tuesday, 2 to 6, at 8, Shooter's Hill Road—Hostess, Mrs. Monk.

South Kensington—Belgian Hostel, 1, Argyll Road—Working Party for London Units of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals Every Tuesday and Friday, 3 to 6.30 p.m.

Huddersfield—Sewing Meetings will be held at the Office, 41, Spring Street, every Tuesday afternoon, from 2.30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 17.

Ross-on-Wye—Corn Exchange—Miss Thurstan on "Red Cross Work in Belgium and Russia," illustrated by lantern slides—Chair, the Rev. W. A. Powick, M.A. 8.0

SEPTEMBER 19.

Birmingham—Great Bridge Adult School—Speaker, Mrs. Ring. Chair, Mrs. Langley Browne, 3.

SEPTEMBER 21.

Bristol—40, Park Street—Women's Interests Committee, 3

SEPTEMBER 22.

Birmingham—Sherbourne Street Adult School—Speaker, Mrs. Ring, 8.15.

Bristol—40, Park Street—Working Party, 3.

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SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Ten words, 9d per insertion; every additional ten words, 6d. per insertion. All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 14, Great Smith-st., Westminster, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

HELP WANTED.

EXTENSION of the work of the Reading W.S.S. Day Nursery owing to employment of mothers on war work makes good second-hand Geyser an urgent necessity. Who will lend or give? —All particulars from Miss Jones, 229, King's Road, Reading.

WILL lady adopt healthy boy baby, three weeks old? Refined mother; unfortunate circumstances.—Apply, Box 5,332, COMMON CAUSE Office.

POSITIONS VACANT.

WANTED, capable Gentlewoman of education with good social and organising powers; able to assist with and undertake management of large boarding house; age 30-35; salary £100 per year.—Apply Box 5,326, COMMON CAUSE Office.

WANTED, an Experienced Lady Gardener to undertake management of a garden of 3 acres, with a view to growing plants for drug-making or vegetables for the market.—For all particulars, apply to Miss Tuke, Pegsdon Barns, near Hitchin.

WANTED, October 1st, capable General; £22-£24; good plain cooking; charwoman twice weekly; daily help; family 4 and 2 children; good references essential; age 30-40.—Mrs. Moore Ede, Hammerwood, Oxted, Surrey.

MOTORING.

WANTED, Motor Instructress, capable of taking full charge of ladies' daily classes in motor mechanism and running repairs; only thoroughly competent teacher need apply.—"Workshop," 8, Brick-st., Piccadilly, W.

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MRS. WOOD-SMITH, M.P.S. Chemist, Coaches Women Students for the Apothecaries Hall Dispensers Examination.—Apply 9, Blenheim-rd., Bedford-pk., W.

TO GIRLS SEEKING A USEFUL AND ATTRACTIVE CALLING.—ANSTEY COLLEGE FOR PHYSICAL TRAINING AND HYGIENE, ERDINGTON, WARWICKSHIRE, offers a full teachers' training in Physical Culture, including Swedish Educational and Medical Gymnastics, Dancing in all its branches, indoor and outdoor games, Swimming, Hygiene, Anatomy, Physiology, &c.
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PROVISIONS, FRUIT, etc.

DEVONSHIRE CLOTTED CREAM; 2s. per lb.; 1s. 3d. per ½-lb.; post free; cash with order.—Miss Aleda Paynter, Hocklake Farm, Bere Alston, Devon.

EARLY DEVON APPLES, for dessert or cooking, 12 lbs. 3s.; damsons, 12 lbs. 4s.; carriage paid.—Miss Davy, Bere Ferrers, S. Devon.

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FOR SALE AND WANTED.

ANTHRACITE STOVE for Sale.—Miss Fidler, 131, Abbey-rd., N.W.

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